

# Mansfield Public Schools

## Board of Education Update

Fred Baruzzi

Superintendent of Schools

Issue #66

December 2013

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

### Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	28	6/0	26	2/0	34	6/1			88
K	34	4/1	37	4/1	42	3/0			113
1	42	0/1	47	2/1	48	9/2			137
2	33	5/0	53	10/2	44	1/5			130
3	39	0/5	43	4/1	48	1/2			130
4	28	1/0	36	5/2	49	1/3			113
PK-4									711
5							126	11/4	126
6							135	5/0	135
7							139	2/1	139
8							141	2/1	141
# Boys	111		115		134		278		
# Girls	93		127		131		263		
Total	204	15/7	242	24/7	265	21/13	541	20/6	1252

\*Enrolled/Withdrawn

Homeschool: 14 students from 7 families

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant Children*	5	5	1	5	16
ELL**	17	13	5	14	49

\*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.  
\*\*English Language Learners

### District Performance Targets (12-13)

Indicator	Participation Rate	DPI	Target	Achieved
DPI*	100.0%	90.0	88.0	Yes
Students w/ Disabilities	100.0%	64.1	62.1	Yes
Free/Reduced Eligible	100.0%	79.4	78.0	Yes
Hispanic or Latino	100.0%	78.7	81.8	No
ELL	100.0%			
Reading	100.0%	88.4	86.7	Yes
Mathematics	100.0%	90.9	88.0	Yes
Writing	100.06%	91.1	88.0	Yes
Science	100.0%	92.0	88.0	Yes

\* District Performance Index

### Connecticut Mastery Test Results

# / % of students at/above goal – March 2013

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 115	95 / 83.3	89 / 77.4	88 / 76.5	n/a
4 – 124	102 / 82.3	90 / 72.6	92 / 75.4	n/a
5 – 137	124 / 91.9	116 / 85.3	108 / 80.6	119 / 86.9
6 – 141	108 / 76.6	107 / 76.4	112 / 80.0	n/a
7 – 135	117 / 86.7	120 / 88.9	122 / 90.4	n/a
8 – 141	105 / 75.0	122 / 87.1	118 / 84.3	117 / 83.0

Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2013-2014 grade)

Gr. 4 – 39/34%	Gr. 7 – 57/40%
Gr. 5 – 49/39%	Gr. 8 – 26/19%
Gr. 6 – 43/31%	Gr. 9 – 44/31%

### Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

August-November 2012		August-December 2013	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
28,985	60,394	35,354	60,600

- Began 2014-2015 initial budget preparation.

### Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	1
Resignations	0	0
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	0
Reduction in Force	0	0

### District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

#### Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Facilitated continued implementation of District CCSS Plan Year 2.
- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated Technology Committee meeting.
- Facilitated school building level meetings to discuss curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- Held Smarter Balanced Assessment Staff Meetings to familiarize staff with new assessment.
- Facilitated Math External Program Review initial meeting.
- Provided ongoing information regarding Smarter Balanced Assessments.

### Policies

- Implement revised MBOE Policies approved at October 10, 2013 meeting.
- Facilitated implementation of changes to MPS Teacher/Administrator Professional Learning & Evaluation Plan.
- Facilitated referral of parent request regarding homeschool participation in school programs to Policy Committee.

### Security

- Continued the implementation of required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Continued the implementation of Tabletop Emergency Procedures Drill preparation.
- Continued to implement Board approved enhanced safety measures.
- Superintendent and State Trooper Information Session at EASTCONN.

## Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Initiated setup up and initial planting at MMS greenhouse.
- Vinton Septic tanks were pumped.
- Facilitated removal of trees at Goodwin.
- Facilitated transfer of trestle tree from Southeast to Vinton.
- Completed selected floor tile replacement at Vinton.
- Continued work on lunch table issue at Goodwin.
- Repainted Southeast staff room.

Maintenance Work Requests						
	GW	SE	VN	MMS	Total	
Solved	6	10	8	14	38	57%
Pending	5	4	3	9	21	31%
Open	0	1	3	4	8	12%
Total	11	15	14	27	67	100%

## Programs

Study Island Through September 28, 2013							
Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
18	29.6	0	0	65	25.1	0	0

\*Number of questions attempted on grade level

## Energy

- Facilitated school building energy committees.
- Continued to facilitate guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.
- Implemented with finance and maintenance department common comprehensive energy management system.

## Communication

- Provided all staff with an update of Administrative Council items.
- Facilitated three Administrative Council meetings.
- Held monthly Facilities Management Meeting.
- Attended MAC meeting.
- Continued to implement digital take home notices at all schools.
- Attended URSA Superintendents Legislative Breakfast.
- Conducted two Winter Community Conversations at each of the four schools.
- Attended Goodwin Bequest Committee meeting.
- Facilitated budget discussion with Region 19 and sending school superintendents.

## Professional Development

- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Implemented District Common Core State Standards as outlined in district plan year two.
- Facilitated Professional Development Committee Meeting.
- Facilitated TEAM Committee Meeting.
- Facilitated SBAC Technology PD for all staff grades 3-8.

## Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued use of Horizon library system software.
- Continued implementation of Pearson Limelight Inform to track student assessment data to inform instruction.
- Continued implementation of MMS Parent Portal.
- Implementation of School Messenger software program for transportation and school delays/closings to parents/guardians.
- Continued to implement Versatran's school bus routing software.
- Implemented a secure file program for certified staff professional learning and evaluation plan.
- Continued conversation with Bloomboard regarding potential use for certified staff professional learning and evaluation plan.

## Other

- Attended ELL LAS Links training.
- Attended CAPSS/CASBO/CAS Data & Reports Committee meeting.
- Attended 2013 Education Policy Symposium.
- Attended 2013 Learning and Leading: Excellence Matters conference.
- Attended CAPSS Legislative Committee meeting.
- Attended UCONN: CBER & CSER Research Collaborative meeting
- Attended Neag Schools as Clinics meeting.
- Attended CAPSS pk-4 Superintendents' meeting.
- Attended Shipman & Goodwin Legal and Practical Guide to MBOE meetings.
- Attended CSDE School Climate Focus Group meeting.
- Attended all school concerts and performances.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org).

# Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

## Goodwin School

- Fourth graders at Goodwin spent the week before the Holiday break performing random acts of kindness for their unsuspecting schoolmates. The fourth graders made individual "gifts" for each student in the school. Preschoolers and Kindergarteners received loop bracelets because the fourth graders knew that kindergarten fingers might be too tiny to create this new fashion rage. First graders received a special bookmark to keep track of all the reading they can do. Second graders received bookworm pencil toppers to keep them company while they work on writing those stories and to show their math thinking. Third graders received wild thing bookmark clips for the chapter books they are devouring. Each year, Goodwin fourth graders participate in a program called *The Leader in Me*. This program teaches students about living the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. This year's group has really taken their leadership role seriously. They are having a positive influence on the entire school community! These random kindnesses were a huge surprise and greatly appreciated.
- Teachers in grades kindergarten through grade 2 are implementing the revised version of Bridges in Mathematics. This revision aligns the program to new Common Core expectations. At a recent grade level meeting, first grade teachers explained that there is definitely more rigor in the program but they are appreciating the way the new version is structured. Students stick with one topic longer and go into greater depth. They have ample time to practice new skills and there are many ways to challenge students who learn the concepts quickly.
- Third grade students were presented with their very own dictionary at the December Town Meeting. Each year, volunteers from The Echo Grange, donate brand new dictionaries for every third grade student in Mansfield. During Town Meeting, the dictionaries are presented as part of the national Words for Thirds program. Goodwin wishes to extend a special thanks to Betty Lussier for once again making the presentation to our students. Our third graders love their dictionaries!

## Southeast School

- December marks the countdown to the final weeks of Trestle Tree at Southeast for this school year. Students have literally reached new heights, conquered fears, and learned to problem solve as a team to meet the physical, social and emotional goals of this innovative physical education program. We are so proud of the individual student successes that have been achieved.
- Our PTO worked closely with the Southeast Staff to adopt four local families in need for the holiday season. Everything from toys and games, to snow pants and gift cards were coordinated, collected, wrapped, and delivered. It's times like these that we are reminded of how much difference we can make when we work as a team.
- Our fourth graders in Mrs. Sangree's and Mr. Warinsky's classes have been preparing for their Winter Writer's celebration. Students have written narrative stories and followed the writing process all the way to the finished product. At the celebration on December 20, the students read their stories in front of a live audience of parents and students, ate healthy foods, and celebrated their peers' accomplishments.

## Vinton School

- The third graders traveled to the Old State House and State Historical Society on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. At the Old State House students learned about the history of Connecticut's leaders and government. At the State Historical Society Museum and Library, they were able to view historical Connecticut artifacts, including a 1912 steam-powered fire engine.
- On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Vinton Kindergarten classes visited the Mansfield Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for the 17<sup>th</sup> year. Prior to the visit, students read stories such as Now One Foot, Now the Other, by Tomie dePaola and Sunshine Home, by Eve Bunting. Teachers and students talked about the circle of life, and young and old helping each other. To prepare for the visit, the students designed and decorated antlers to wear, and some also wore Rudolph noses. At the Nursing Center, they sang the "Dreidel Song," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and "Jingle Bells" while chiming real bells. Students also delivered holiday cards to the residents, who greatly enjoyed the visit.

## Mansfield Middle School

- During December, the MMS school counselors coordinated with the Mansfield Social Services Department to collect gifts and food for local families. The families have received the donations collected by the MMS staff.
- We filled the auditorium for three evening concerts and for two in-school concert assemblies by the MMS Bands, Orchestra and Choruses. Students at all three concerts impressed their audiences with their preparation, hard work, and polished performances. Each ensemble will be performing again on Wednesday evenings in May.
- The newly built greenhouse connected to the science classroom gives full access throughout the school year for science classes, enrichment program, afterschool programs, and grant programs to enjoy using. Students and staff are busy planting vegetables during the winter time. The vegetables will be used in the Family Consumer Sciences classes at the middle school and we are exploring ways to give back to the community. Thank you to the generous support from the community, MMSA and the middle school staff.
- Mrs. Virginia Duers, retired geologist, spent 2 days in grade 5 sciences classes teaching students about minerals and rocks. Students were able to make their own personal mineral collections to bring home. Students learned how elements combine to form minerals and minerals combine to form rocks. This hands on exploration was enjoyed by the students and staff.

## Upcoming Events in January:

*Please join us at any/all of these events*

GW	SE	VN
Collecting for Backpack Brigade (PTO) 1/8/14	PTO Meeting 1/6/14 7:00pm	Celebrate Vinton Assembly 1/16/14
PTO Meeting 1/13/14 6:30		Vinton School 61 <sup>st</sup> Birthday 1/27/14
MMS		
Mansfield K-12 String Fling 1/15/14	Robotics Tournament 1/18/14 7:00am-5:00pm	Student Council Talent School 1/31/14 6:00pm
District		
New Year's Day Holiday 1/1/14	Board Meeting 1/23/14 7:30pm	

### Link to District Four Schools Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/3607/5184/7573.aspx>

or:

Go to <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/mboe> (Board of Ed. website)

- 1) In the middle at the bottom is a link called "Calendar of Events"
- 2) Click on that link and it will bring you to the calendar.